

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00918 010814Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 INT-05 SS-15 COME-00  
STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 L-03  
/077 W

-----030173 010827Z /20

P R 010632Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2568  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUBUMBASHI 0918

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EMIN, CG  
SUBJECT: AIRLIFT OF COBALT

REF: (A) STATE 190505 (B) LUBUMBASHI 0822

1. ACCORDING TO SENIOR GECAMINES OFFICIALS, AIRLIFT OF COBALT FROM LUBUMBASHI TO BRUSSELS BEGAN IN EARLY JULY, A FEW DAYS BEFORE REF B INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH AN OPERATION. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE SHIPMENTS SINCE THAT TIME, EACH OF APPROXIMATELY 30 TONS. AIRCRAFT USED IS A BOEING 727 RENTED BY AIR ZAIRE BUT OWNED BY SABENA. FLIGHTS ARE SPECIAL CHARTERS ARRANGED BY GECAMINES AND SGM/BRUSSELS FOR RAPID DELIVERY OF SPARE PARTS, PROVISIONS, AND P-2 EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO GECAMINES, EXPEDITION OF COBALT IS PURELY SPACE-AVAILABLE BACKHAUL OPERATION. AIRLIFT OF COBALT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST INNOVATIONS SUGGESTED BY NEW ASSISTANT DELEGATE-GENERAL PICQUET UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN FEBRUARY. DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION WAS DUE TO DELAYS IN CONTRACT RE-NEGOTIATION WITH AIR ZAIRE.

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PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00918 010814Z

2. GECAMINES ADMITS THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH OVERLAND EVACUATION OF COBALT ON THE VOIE NATIONALE TO MATADI. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY LONG-STANDING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE RIVER-RAIL ROUTE, GECAMINES CLAIMS THAT PROBLEMS ARE COMPLICATED BY SEASONAL DROP IN KASAI RIVER WATER LEVEL WHICH CREATES NAVIGATION PROBLEMS FOR ONATRA FIVER BARGES. INCREASING

DELAYS IN OVERLAND ROUTE TO EMBARKATION PORT MAY HAVE  
PROMPTED GECAMINES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHARTERED  
SUPPLY FLIGHTS IN ORDER TO BACKHAUL COBALT: GECAMINES  
EXPECTS THREE OR FOUR FLIGHTS PER MONTH FOR THE  
NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

3. ZAIRETAIN LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT NO ATTEMPTS  
TO AIRLIFT TIN OR TANTALUM HAD BEEN MADE SINCE 1977.  
AT THAT TIME EFFORTS TO EVACUATE TIN BY AIR WERE RULED  
NOT COST-EFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF AIR ZAIRE'S INDIFFERENCE  
IN MAKING CONTRACT-SPECIFIED DELIVERY DEADLINES IN BELGIUM.  
ZAIRETAIN HAS NO PLANS TO REINSTITUTE CHARTER FLIGHTS.  
NALL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COBALT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LUBUMB00918  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780314-0247  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LUBUMBASHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197808113/aaaadqqd.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** ac2c6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1579758  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AIRLIFT OF COBALT  
**TAGS:** EMIN, CG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ac2c6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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